

critical supplies like food, blankets, medication, and medical equipment as well. The fuel from these aircraft was even used in some cases to help generators continue running. The aircraft carried medical staff and relief personnel from the United States to Haiti to assist in relief efforts, including a group that came from my hometown of Memphis, from LeBonheur Children's Hospital. They spent quite a bit of time down there.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. Con. Res. 61.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 61, a resolution recognizing general aviation pilots and the general aviation industry for their contributions in response to the Haiti earthquake relief efforts. As we all know, on January 12, 2010, the country of Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake. Immediately after the earthquake, general aviation pilots began providing transportation for medical staff and relief personnel. More than 4,500 flights were made by general aviators in the first 30 days, and business aircraft alone conducted more than 700 flights, transporting 3,500 passengers and over 1 million pounds of cargo—fully paid for by individual pilots and aircraft owners.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of the Corporate Aviation Responding in Emergencies organization, called CARE, one of the largest contributors to Haiti response efforts. CARE is a group of volunteers from the business aviation community that coordinate relief flights in response to disasters. It was formed in response to Hurricane Katrina, and participants flew about 175 missions and moved approximately 1,000 people and 250,000 pounds of supplies.

The earthquake in Haiti produced another situation that was the fundamental case for business and general aviation. It needed quick reaction, decentralized response, and efficiency. Business and general aviation was the only response entity that could do all three. CARE Operation Haiti has included more than 750 flights with 4,000 passengers, and over a million pounds of critical medical supplies. CARE passengers have included medical personnel, relief workers, newly adopted children, injured patients, and missionaries. Over 100 aircraft have been activated for the program, flying more than \$5 million worth of flight hours.

□ 1200

Again, I would like to recognize the contributions of CARE and all those who took part in relief efforts in Haiti. I also would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the victims and families who have been impacted by this devastating disaster.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I said much of what I could say on this particular resolution when I discussed the previous one, and noted that it is important to recognize that general aviation is very, very important to our Nation. It serves so many people so well. I will not bother to repeat all the points I made earlier, but I simply want to say that I think this is an excellent resolution, and I hope that everyone in this Chamber will vote for it and that it will go into effect.

Mr. COHEN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, before we close, I want to take an opportunity, because I don't know if I will have the opportunity on the floor to do it. Mr. EHLERS is retiring during this Congress. When I was a freshman in 2006, he was the head of the Committee on House Administration that helped welcome all the freshmen and get us oriented to Congress, and he was one of the first influences on my experience in Congress. It was an excellent one. You are a gentleman. It's been an honor serving with you, and I thank you for your contributions to the Class of 2006. I wish you Godspeed.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 61, Expressing the sense of the Congress that general aviation pilots and industry should be recognized for the contributions made in response to Haiti earthquake relief efforts.

On January 12, 2010, Haiti experienced a disastrous earthquake that overwhelmed its disaster relief capabilities. The world responded.

In addition to relief offered by governments from around the world, individual general aviation pilots did what they could to support the relief effort.

To help meet the desperate need for supplies to help those displaced by the earthquake, general aviation pilots made over 4,500 relief flights within the first thirty days after the disaster.

Some 3,500 passengers and 1 million pounds of cargo were transported by large general aviation aircraft, and general aviation pilots in smaller aircraft were able to serve areas that larger aircraft could not access, delivering critical medical personnel and supplies.

This concurrent resolution recognizes the magnanimous efforts of the general aviation community in the response to this terrible disaster. The extraordinary efforts of these general aviation pilots and the general aviation community saved countless lives and helped to ease the suffering of those in need.

The Senate adopted this resolution by unanimous consent on April 29, 2010. On this, the 4-month anniversary of the earthquake, I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution recognizing the efforts of those who came to the aid of the people of Haiti.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, S. Con. Res.

61, which recognizes the many contributions of the private pilots and the general aviation industry to the Haiti earthquake relief efforts and encourages the continued generosity of general aviation pilots and operators in ongoing humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti.

On January 12, 2010, the Republic of Haiti experienced a devastating earthquake, leaving up to an estimated 300,000 dead and 300,000 injured. It is also estimated that more than 4,500 relief flights were conducted by general aviation aircraft during the 30-day period following the earthquake. Business aircraft transported approximately 3,500 passengers and delivered more than one million pounds of cargo and supplies to the Haitian people. All of this was accomplished through the generosity of individual pilots and aircraft owners.

General aviation aircraft were vital for getting help to smaller communities that were impacted in the Haitian countryside. Light planes landed on shorter airstrips and distributed urgently-needed supplies to medical professionals and people on the ground, bypassing the congested Port-au-Prince airport.

General aviation aircraft and pilots assisted in delivering supplies, including water purification kits, tarps, medical supplies, blankets, and towels. Medical staff and relief personnel were also transported on these aircraft from the United States to Haiti to conduct relief work. Companies, business aviation and private pilots, nongovernmental relief organizations, aviation groups, and others banded together in the earthquake's aftermath to assist in the Haiti relief effort.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. Con. Res. 61.

Mr. COHEN. I would like to ask that all of our Members join in supporting S. Con. Res. 61. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. McCOLLUM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 61.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICORPS

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1338) recognizing the significant accomplishments of AmeriCorps and encouraging all citizens to join in a national effort to raise awareness about the importance of national and community service.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1338

Whereas, since its inception in 1994, the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans in meeting a wide range of local and national needs and promoting the ethic of service and volunteering;

Whereas, each year, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 85,000 citizens across the Nation to give back in an intensive way to their communities;

Whereas those same individuals improve the lives of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens, protect the environment, contribute to public safety, respond to disasters, and strengthen the educational system;

Whereas AmeriCorps members serve thousands of nonprofit organizations, schools, and faith-based and community organizations each year;

Whereas AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, are more likely to remain engaged in their communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals;

Whereas, on April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, passed by bipartisan majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, which reauthorized and will expand AmeriCorps programs;

Whereas national service programs have engaged millions of Americans in results-driven service in the Nation's most vulnerable communities, providing hope and help to people facing economic and social needs;

Whereas, this year, as the economic downturn puts millions of Americans at risk, national service and volunteering are more important than ever; and

Whereas 2010's AmeriCorps Week, observed May 8 through May 15, provides the perfect opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alumni, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members and to motivate more Americans to serve their communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni and raise awareness about the importance of national and community service;

(2) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of the AmeriCorps members, alumni, and community partners; and

(3) recognizes the important contributions to the lives of our citizens by AmeriCorps members.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which time Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1338 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may require.

I rise today in full support of House Resolution 1338, which recognizes the substantial contributions of AmeriCorps. Since 1994, AmeriCorps programs have engaged over 570,000 individuals of all ages in national service programs, totaling 705 million hours of service to our Nation. AmeriCorps was launched following the establishment of the Corporation for National and Community Service under the National

and Community Service Trust Act. The organization is composed of AmeriCorps State and national programs: the National Civilian Community Corps, or NCCC, and the Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA program. The initial class of 20,000 volunteers helped establish and grow this wonderful program of volunteer service. AmeriCorps now involves 75,000 individuals each year to improve the lives of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens, protect the environment, contribute to public safety, respond to disasters, and strengthen our educational system.

AmeriCorps participants have tackled many timely and important issues, including health care, gang violence, drug abuse, environmental cleanup, and homelessness. They have partnered with thousands of organizations, including Habitat for Humanity and the Red Cross. AmeriCorps VISTA participants have been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America. VISTA's 6,500 participants provide assistance each year to low-income communities by helping businesses, expanding access to technology, recruiting literacy volunteers, strengthening antipoverty groups, and creating sustainable programs that help people rise out of poverty.

National Civilian Community Corps participants have led service projects in areas of critical national need, including disaster response, infrastructure improvement, environment and energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Corps volunteers have responded to every nationally declared disaster since 1994 as well as helped communities prepare for the next emergency.

Most importantly, AmeriCorps members continue to serve their community even after their terms of service. In fact, many former workers continue as volunteers, teachers, nonprofit professionals, and government employees.

Madam Speaker, for those struggling to make ends meet during this tough economy, volunteers in the national service are more important than ever. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act signed in 2009 by President Obama expands the AmeriCorps program to incorporate 250,000 volunteers each year, and the strength of our Nation depends on individuals who take action towards building better communities.

This week is AmeriCorps Week, when we recognize and thank the commitment of these volunteers so that future generations will continue to support the ideal of national service. It's important for us to highlight the important work done by the organization and to motivate others to become engaged and to volunteer, whether through AmeriCorps or other service opportunities throughout the country.

So I would ask that my colleagues join me in full support of House Resolution 1338 and to take a moment and appreciate the contributions by our many AmeriCorps participants. I want

to thank Representative MATSUI for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to pass it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1338, a resolution recognizing AmeriCorps Week. This year marks the fourth annual AmeriCorps Week, which is May 8 to May 15. As a co-Chair of the National Service Caucus, I am honored to recognize the individuals who participate in the AmeriCorps program and dedicate their time and effort to helping others in local communities. Last year, President Obama signed the latest reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Serve America Act. This act aims to ensure additional accountability to national service programs, helps smaller organizations participate in national service, and works to ensure America's veterans can participate in service.

Americans have a long history of service to each other and to their country, and AmeriCorps creates a web of opportunities for Americans to serve. I saw ample evidence of this just yesterday when I participated in a ceremony in Grand Rapids, Michigan, my hometown. It was just striking to me what a multiplier effect we have with the AmeriCorps program. The room was filled with volunteers, but not all of them were AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps had energized a lot of different organizations and a lot of different volunteers to put in time during the course of the past year, and many of them received rewards because of the quality of work they did. I was not only happy to see that the Federal Government had assisted in the formation of this group but also that we were getting so much for so little Federal money because the AmeriCorps people working there who did receive some Federal funds had, in fact, recruited a large number of other people to work with them, and so we accomplished a great deal in my community with very, very little Federal funding. I think that serves as a model for the Nation.

Nationwide, AmeriCorps provides 85,000 opportunities annually to serve communities from across the Nation and gives Americans the opportunity to offer their services in tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged youth, fighting illiteracy, building affordable housing, and assisting communities in times of natural disaster. In fact, there was a group of volunteers yesterday who were supposed to receive a reward for all their good work with Habitat for Humanity, and they were not there to receive it because they were putting up another house. That's an example of how these efforts are multiplied throughout the different communities.

A couple of examples of this ongoing service include AmeriCorps members assisting the American Red Cross in managing shelters for residents who

have evacuated their homes due to the flooding brought on by the heavy rain in Nashville, Tennessee, and partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank in greater New Orleans to assemble and ship emergency food boxes bound for the Louisiana coastal fishing communities whose livelihood is being impacted by the recent oil spill.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PRICE and others for introducing this resolution with me.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased at this time to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), the sponsor of the resolution.

Ms. MATSUI. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1338, which recognizes the significant accomplishments of AmeriCorps volunteers and helps raise awareness about the importance of national and community service. I would like to thank the Education and Labor Committee and especially Chairman MILLER for their support of this legislation and my fellow co-chairs of the National Service Caucus, Representatives EHLERS, PLATTS and PRICE, for their partnership. As a co-chair of the National Service Caucus, it is a pleasure to call attention to the tremendous work of those involved in service at every level.

We are now in the midst of National AmeriCorps Week which is celebrated each year to honor the important work that AmeriCorps volunteers provide to our communities. At this time last year, the President had just recently signed the Senator Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, with strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate; and we have seen since then a tremendous increase in the number of AmeriCorps applications and interest in service as a whole.

The bill answered the call for Americans of all generations to help get the country through the recent economic crisis by serving in their communities. In times of strife, the American people have always shown a spirit of service and ingenuity, and investments in service and volunteer programs help prepare us to handle the unforeseen crises.

In my hometown of Sacramento, the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, or as we say NCCC, provides important benefits to our region. For example, Sacramento-based NCCC members served thousands of hours to help fight the fires that devastated the lives and livelihoods of thousands of Californians and, in doing so, helped protect thousands more. AmeriCorps NCCC members are disaster trained and available for immediate deployment in the event of a natural disaster anywhere within the United States. Through programs such as AmeriCorps, State and national Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA, and NCCC,

servicemembers address critical needs in our communities, and we should continue to make national service more accessible to the millions of Americans who want to serve their country by contributing to their community.

Madam Speaker, AmeriCorps Week offers us an opportunity to honor the important work of AmeriCorps volunteers in our own districts and across the country. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and take this opportunity to thank AmeriCorps volunteers for their dedication to improving our Nation one neighborhood at a time.

Mr. EHLERS. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I would just reiterate the points that have been made earlier but in a more brief fashion to say that I hope our colleagues will join in supporting this resolution and to say thank you to the many volunteers who are on the front lines helping us during times of crisis, whether it's economic, physical disaster or sociological change. We need their help, and we appreciate it. This is a resolution to do that. So I thank the sponsors. I thank the chairman of the Service Caucus and urge your support.

Mr. LOEBACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the fourth annual AmeriCorps Week.

I am fortunate to come from Iowa where a sense of community is the norm. In 2008, we were hit by the worst disaster in the state's history. The flooding destroyed homes and businesses, but Iowans pitched in to help their neighbors, and volunteers from across the nation came to assist our communities.

AmeriCorps members came to Cedar Rapids and other flood-affected areas immediately after the disaster hit, helping to meet people's basic needs in the aftermath of the emergency.

AmeriCorps volunteers continue to work in the area rebuilding homes, coordinating volunteer efforts, and revitalizing local community organizations. To date, about 1,700 AmeriCorps members have volunteered to help with the flood recovery effort.

Iowans owe a debt of gratitude to AmeriCorps, VISTA, and NCCC members who have worked so hard for our communities, so I am pleased to have the opportunity to thank them today.

Ms. TITUS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1338.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1215

## RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1261) recognizing National Nurses Week, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1261

Whereas since 1990, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Recognition Day for Nurses, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality health care;

Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting to protect the lives of those under their care;

Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the health care profession with 3,100,000 jobs;

Whereas the work of nurses encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses help inform and educate the public and Congress to improve the recruitment, education, retention, and the practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for;

Whereas the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) released final survey data showing that enrollments in entry-level baccalaureate programs in nursing rose by 3.6 percent in 2009, and though this marks the ninth consecutive year of enrollment growth, the annual increase in student capacity in 4-year nursing programs has declined sharply since 2003 when enrollment was up by 16.6 percent;

Whereas United States nursing programs were forced to reject almost 119,000 qualified applications to nursing programs according to the National League for Nursing's most recent survey of all prelicensure nursing programs;

Whereas according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of registered nurses is expected to grow by 22 percent from 2008 to 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations;

Whereas according to new survey data by the AACN, enrollment in doctoral nursing programs increased by more than 20 percent this year, signaling strong interest among students in careers as nursing scientists, faculty, primary care providers, and specialists;

Whereas according to the AACN, expanding capacity in baccalaureate and graduate programs is critical to sustaining a healthy nursing workforce and providing patients with the best care possible;

Whereas nursing colleges and universities across the country are struggling to meet the rising demand for nurses; and

Whereas increased support is needed to enhance efforts to educate nursing students at all levels, to increase the number of faculty members to educate nursing students, and to